

[illegible]

Application No.:

Filing Date: filed concurrently

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

For fee calculation purposes and to put this application into more conventional U.S. format, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, prior to line 4, insert

- - CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is based upon, and claims priority from, GB 0006294.3 filed 15 March 2000, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION - -:

Page 2, prior to line 19, insert

- - SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION - - :

Page 4, prior to line 11, insert

- - BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES - - ;

Page 7, prior to line 7, insert

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION -- ;

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claim 20.

Amend claims 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, and 16 to eliminate multiple dependency.

**REMARKS**

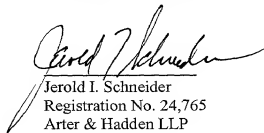
The claims to be amended appear on pages 57, 58, 60, 61 and 62 of the original submission.

Substitute pages 57, 58, 60, 61 and 62 are attached to this Preliminary Amendment. The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency. Specifically, where a claim previously depended from more than one claim, the claim has been amended so that it depends from the first of the previously identified claims. Thus, for example, where original claim 5 depended from 'any preceding claim', now claim 5 depends only from claim 1. Similarly where original claim 7 previously depended from 'claim 5 or claim 6', now claim 7 depends only from claim 5.

Claims 1 – 19 remain pending.

Respectfully submitted

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